THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H R BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Department of Justice has identified a few core areas where judicial reforms are needed on priority basis. These include continuation of existing Fast Track Courts (FTCs), creation of additional FTCs, Computerization of District and Subordinate judiciary and creation of physical infrastructure. The Government. has approved a central sector project for computerization of subordinate judiciary at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crores

(d) Administration of Justice and Judicial Reforms are subject matters dealt with by the Department of Justice. Staff strength in Department of Justice are augmented as and when considered necessary.

(e) to (g) Low cost redressal mechanism in the form of ADR such as Lok Adalats continue to operate. As on June, 2004, 2,23,159 Lok Adalats have been held leading to settlement in 1,63,31,357 cases, half of which related to motor accident claims. Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended in the year 2002, has opened the scope of introduction of concilliation, mediation and pre-trial settlement methodologies.

Law Commission in its 188th report, has recommended constitution of Hi-tech Fast Track Commercial Divisions in High Courts.

Non-utilisation of funds earmarked for physically challenged

*358. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report prepared by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for the Disabled People has found that out of all the minority groups in the country, the physically challenged have been the most neglected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a considerable amount out of the funds earmarked towards the physically challenged remained unutilized;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No report from the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for the Disabled People has been received by this Ministry.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The utilization of funds is measured as difference in Revised Estimates and actual expenditure. Thus, the unspent amount for disability sector for the Ninth Plan was Rs. 35.07 crores as against the revised estimate of Rs. 790.03 crores. Major reasons for non-utilisation of funds were:

1) State Governments took time to formulate projects and set up mechanism for implementation.

2) The office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) could be set up only by the middle of the Ninth Plan due to administrative procedure involved in getting required clearances/approvals.

The total Plan outlay for the Tenth Plan is Rs. 1454.10 crores. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, for the year 2002-03, expenditure was Rs. 194.05 crores against the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs. 192.37 crore. Thus, there was slight excess expenditure. For the year 2003-2004, the expenditure was Rs. 168.92 crores against an RE of Rs. 186.25 crores. Thus, there was a shortfall of Rs. 17.33 crores. The shortfall was on account of delays in receipt of utilization certificates from the NGOs and the recommendation of State Governments as well as time taken in completing procedural formalities under certain schemes. For the year 2004-05, the expenditure (provisional) was Rs. 175.54 crores against an RE of Rs. 175 crores.

Urban unemployed in NER

*359. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted so far to find out the actual figures of the educated urban unemployed persons in the North-Eastern Region with special mention to Assam;

(b) whether Government have taken any effective measures to contain growth of the educated unemployed in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to